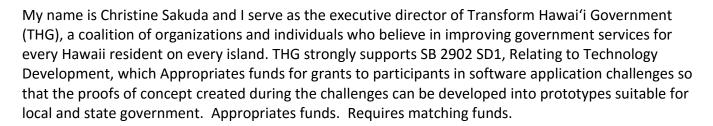


February 28, 2018

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means Conference Room 211 Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813







These challenges, such as the Hawaii Annual Code Challenge and the Agricultural code challenge known as the AGathon, engage the technology development community and state government agencies in collaborative efforts to develop innovative solutions to an array of issues facing our state. Application challenges are intended to generate proofs of concepts, but not complete or even prototype products. Without additional resources, the fruition of these proofs of concepts and their potential benefits cannot be realized.

The appropriation provided by this measure bridges the existing gap between a proof of concept, a prototype and a commercial product. Moreover, it not only creates a pathway for the development of civic technology but also enables the teams themselves to evolve into startup businesses. Accordingly, these challenges, when coupled with the appropriation provided by this measure, further both business and workforce development in our state.

THG also supports the provisions regarding the use of funds for the identified purposes and the prescribed leveraging of matching funds to extend the impact of this appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide THG's input on this important bill.

